Change in policy regarding arms deals with Israel and South Africa

†1516. SHRI NANDIYELLAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was a ban on supply of arms to Israel and South Africa under the old policy of Government but presently these two countries have become major partner of India in sale-purchase of the arms;

(b) if so, the reasons for change in the old policy of Government regarding defence deals; and

(c) the steps taken to check the expected ill effects on the relations of India with Arab countries?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) During the white apartheid regime of South Africa, India was adhering to the International sanctions against that country,The sanctions were lifted with the advent of pluralistic and multi-party democracy in South Africa in 1994. Since then India has been developing its relationship with South Africa in all spheres, including defence cooperation.

India and Israel established Embassies in each other's country in 1992. Since then bilateral relationship between the two countries has been growing including in the field of defence.

(c) Our defence dealings with other countries, including South Africa and Israel are guided solely by considerations of our own defence preparedness. This has had no adverse effect on India's relationship with Arab countries.

Export oLdefence equipments

1517. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: SHRI S. AGNIRAJ:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has been in a position to export defence equipments and fighter and supply aircrafts;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the names of items and the prospective countries to whom these are planned to be exported;

(c) whether any export orders have been received or firmed up; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER. OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Ordnance Factory Board and Defence Public Sector Undertakings have been exporting some of their products for several years after meeting domestic requirements. Products are exported mainly to countries in Asia and Africa and include helicopters, helicopter and aircraft spares, small arms ammunition, exposives, rockets, spares of rifles and guns, clothing items, parachutes and accessories, aeronautical stores, communication equipment, night vision devices, bollard pull tug, components and sub-systems etc. some products have even been exported to countries in Europe and North America. India is also capable of exporting offshore patrol vessels, training ships, survey vessels, anti tank guided missiles, launchers, test equipments, simulators etc.

Deep sea diving

1518. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Navy has any special division that specializes in under water operations;

(b) if so, to what level of operations such a unit capable of;

(c) if not, whether the Navy has any plans to induct any such unit that specializes in deep sea diving and conduct exclusive under water operations to protect and serve the country as well as be capable to deep sea and under water explorations; and

(d) whether deep sea diving in included the training of the Navy?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Depending upon the operational requirement, the Navy possesses the necessary deep sea diving and exclusive under water operations capability.

(d) Yes, Sir.